DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 109 982 IR 002 205

TITLE	Six Documents from the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information.
INSTITUTION	Council for Cultural Cooperation, Strasbourg (France).
PUB DATE	May 75
NOTE	29p.; Not available in hard copy due to marginal legibility of original document
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.76 PLUS POSTAGE. HC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Conference Reports; *Documentation; *Information Systems; Instructional Materials Centers; *International Organizations; Periodicals; Scholarly Journals
IDENTIFIERS	*EUDISED

ABSTRACT

Documents distributed by the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information (EUDISED), Council of Europe, cover six topics. Included are a draft agenda for the committee's annual meeting; a report on the experimental implementation of a computerized system of exchange of bibliographic information about non-book materials; an analysis of articles in periodicals specializing in the educational sciences; a background document covering problems involved in establishing the EUDISED system; an assessment of the EUDISED project, and a draft EUDISED program for 1976-78. (SK)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED109982

COUNCIL OF EUROPE: COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

SIX DOCUMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

May 1975

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

IR000 805

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 7 April 1975 DECS/Doc (75) 9

COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL
DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

EUDISED WORK PROGRAMME 1975

Exchange of Bibliographic Information
about Non-book Materials

Experimental implementation of a computerised system

by L.A. Gilbert - Council for Educational Technology
for the United Kingdom

39.227
04.6

EXCHANGE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT NON-BOOK MATERIALS

EXPERIMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMPUTERISED SYSTEM

by L.A. Gilbert - Council for Educational Technology
for the United Kingdom

---

1. Introduction

This paper outlines a proposal for the experimental implementation of EUDISED[1] in the field of the exchange of bibliographic information about non-book materials. The purpose of this pilot experiment is to test and develop in a practical form some aspects of the intellectual studies by Gilbert[2], Gorman[3], Linford[4], Shifrin[5] and Tucker[6].

2. Background

2.1 Gilbert recommends (Sec. 4.3.5) against the preparation and distribution of a printed European catalogue of non-book materials that are available in member countries for educational use. As an interim measure he suggests the development of a simple network of national information agencies capable of handling enquiries. However, he envisages (Sec. 4.3.3) the eventual creation by EUDISED of a European data base in machine readable form, with selections of the data being distributed to national centres in member states on computer tape for local exploitation.

2.2 This would require an international centre to act as the focus of the network (Tucker Sec. 3.1). Tucker sees (Sec. 2.2) the processing functions of the network international centres as including:-

(a) producing for national centres selective indexes and lists in whatever form required, e.g., microform, computer typeset output, line printer listings, or on-line through a video terminal;

(b) processing search profiles, SDI or retrospective, provided by national centres and producing outputs in the desired physical form.

2.3 In the early stages of the development of the computer-based network Tucker assumes that national centres will provide the international centre with machine readable data in EUDISED Standard MARC or MARC (but not EUDISED Standard) or non-MARC. However, he hopes that where national centres have been set up after the agreement on EUDISED standards, with systems based on EUDISED software, the centres will provide their data to the international centre in EUDISED Standard MARC, which would allow the data to be processed without preliminary format conversion (Tucker Sec. 4.2). Also machine readable records selected from this input would be issued by the international centre to national centres in EUDISED Standard MARC.

3. The Experiment

3.1 A preliminary test of the problems involved in such standardised data reporting is desirable. It is not necessary for this purpose that the data should be reported by national centres in machine readable form, as the initial problems are likely to be bibliographic and administrative rather than machine dependent (Gilbert Sec. 4.3.4). Accordingly, it is suggested that selected national centres should be contracted to report sample data in eye-readable standardised form, for machine processing by one centre that simulates for the purpose of this exercise the future international centre.

3.2 In the first place it will be necessary to prepare and validate a standard, bilingual computer-tagged report form with guidance notes. This work would be based upon the draft EUDISED format drawn up by Linford, the media code study by Shifrin and the film implementation format of Gorman.

3.3 Each contracting centre will be asked to report on the standard form, a sample of data selected according to given criteria. A representative range of media will be covered, including sound tapes, slides, cinefilms, tape-slide presentations and multi-media kits, to test the capability of the format at the international level.

3.4 In the subject analysis of an item the reporting centre will be asked to apply as far as possible the EUDISED Multilingual Thesaurus. However, it must be noted that the Thesaurus will not cover many of the terms involved in descriptions of subject content.

3.5 The reported data will be edited and converted to machine readable form and processed by the simulated international centre. It is suggested that for the purposes of this test, the outputs should be restricted to some or all of:-

(a) a full, photo-composed eye-readable print-out of the input records in classified order;

(b) a microform version of this print-out;

(c) a small number of selective listings of records according to broad subject groupings whose choice would depend upon the materials reported;

(d) one or two selective listings by medium.

Before a final decision is taken, the participating centres would be invited to comment on this proposed set of outputs.

3.6 A detailed subject index would not be prepared because of the multilingual problems involved. However, it might be a useful experiment to produce a simple index of educational applications, based upon key words allocated to each record by the reporting agency and drawn exclusively from the EUDISED Thesaurus.

3.7 The British Library has informally indicated willingness to undertake the machine processing and to produce the outputs.

4. Participation

It is suggested that the national centres invited to accept contracts for the reporting of data should include organisations in France, Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom.

5. Dissemination of Results

5.1 The outputs would be disseminated through the Council of Europe Secretariat.

5.2 It would be particularly desirable to describe the experiment to all the national information agencies (currently 90) that have signified willingness to participate in the proposed European Information System for Non-Book Materials (Gilbert Appendix III).

5.3 In addition, any member state might purchase for local experimentation a copy of the data tape with the necessary technical documentation.

6. Operational Programme

In summary, the stages of the operation would be as follows:-

6.1 Prepare a report form and guidance notes in English and French based upon the draft EUDISED Standard MARC format.

6.2 Test the form and notes by asking each contracted national centre to report a small number of items of non-book material.

6.3 Revise the form and notes as necessary.

6.4 Obtain about 50 reports from each contracted centre.

6.5 Edit the reports to consistent standards.

6.6 Subject-classify each record.

6.7 Keyboard and machine process the records.

6.8 Prepare the agreed outputs, and circulate them to the participating centres for comment.

6.9 Provide copies of the outputs to the Council of Europe with the comments and with a brief report on the whole exercise.

REFERENCES

1. Report of EUDISED Steering Group. Documentation Centre for Education in Europe: Information Bulletin 2/1972

2. Gilbert, L.A. A European Information System for Non-Book Materials Suitable for Educational Use. Documentation Centre for Education in Europe: EUDISED Technical Studies 1973-74, p.159

3. Gorman, M. EUDISED Film Format. Ibid, p.111

4. Linford, J.E. Draft EUDISED Format. Documentation Centre for Information in Europe: Standards, Format, Character Representation, 1973

5. Shifrin, M. Preliminary Study for the Design of a Coding System to Identify the Physical Forms of both Book and Nonbook Educational Materials. As ref.2, p.1

6. Tucker, C. EUDISED Network Interchange Requirements and MARC Conversion. Committee for Educational Documentation and Information. DECS/DOC(75)2, 1975

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 25 April 1975

DECS/Doc (75) 10
Or. Engl.

COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL
DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

Annual meeting, Strasbourg, 21-22 May 1975

DRAFT AGENDA
(Document DECS/Doc (75) 8)
Annotated by the Secretariat

E 2.611
04.6

Item 3 - Report by the Chairman on the completion of the EUDISED Work Programme 1974

- The 1974 programme was concentrated on a simulation exercise in the field of educational research and development (EUDISED R & D). The computer printouts of the processed worksheets of some 250 projects have been published in

EUDISED R & D Bulletin
Experimental issue 1975.

The more detailed reports received on completed projects and pilot projects have been published in the form of five stencilled documents under the title:

EUDISED R & D Information
Experimental issue 1975

(in French: France and Switzerland; in English: Austria and Federal Republic of Germany; Denmark and Norway; Netherlands).

The four case studies on the educational R & D information and communication systems will be published as soon as all the manuscripts have been received, along with an introductory chapter and concluding remarks by Mr. B. Gran. The case studies deal with Finland, France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

For the continuation of EUDISED R & D see the report on the Third Annual Meeting of editors of national surveys of educational research (document DECS/Rech (75) 16) in particular paras 4 and 5; see also background document DECS/Inf (75) 4 on problems involved in establishing EUDISED at the national level by J. Viet.

The Committee is expected to give guidance for the continuation and further development of EUDISED R & D and to discuss in particular how national participation can be enhanced, complete coverage achieved and quality control improved.

Item 4 - Discussion of proposals for EUDISED Work Programme 1975

- The Committee's Bureau discussed this matter on several occasions and asked Mr. J. Viet and Mr. L. A. Gilbert to prepare brief papers on the two proposals concerned: the Viet paper (document DECS/Doc (75) 4) deals with the analysis of articles in periodicals specialising in the educational sciences, and the Gilbert paper (document DECS/Doc (75) 9) discusses the exchange of bibliographical information about non-book materials. The Committee's Bureau proposes that simulation exercises - similar to the R & D exercise - should be carried out in the two above-mentioned fields in accordance with guidelines to be given by the Committee.

A sum total of 132,500 FF has been made available by the CCC in the 1975 budget for carrying out simulation exercises. The Secretariat proposes to conclude two main contracts for planning and supervising the two activities with Mr. Viet and Mr. Gilbert respectively, and some eight contracts with national agencies interested in participating in them; for example, four contracts for each of the two fields. The Secretariat would therefore be grateful if delegations concerned would indicate at the meeting which agencies are interested in participating in these activities.

In this context the Secretariat would like to report that it became apparent in the Bureau's discussions that abstracting of articles in periodicals is of primary interest only in some countries whereas other countries already have developed specific journals for abstracts, some of which are computer-based. In these cases the question arises how EUDISED could co-operate with such journals and make use of their data bases; this might be a subject for examination by studies to be commissioned by the Secretariat on the Committee's recommendation.

Item 5 - Discussion of proposals for EUDISED Work Programme 1976-78

- The proposals drafted at the occasion of the Bureau's meeting in Luxembourg on 6-7 November 1974 and contained in document DECS/Doc (74) 22 resulted from consultations between the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe's Secretariat in the summer of 1974. These consultations were held against the background of policy directives to both organisations to seek a closer co-operation.

The report on the Bureau's meeting in Luxembourg is contained in document DECS/Doc (74) 23.

Following the Luxembourg meeting a "preliminary assessment of the draft EUDISED programme 1976-78" was commissioned by the Council of Europe's Secretariat and the Commission of the European Communities from Mr. C. V. Townsend. The study, in offset print, will be distributed in advance of the meeting. The estimated annual cost is summarised in section 13.5 of the study.

The Secretariat would like to emphasize that to date no decision has been taken on this draft programme: the Commission has first to consult with its appropriate bodies and the same is true for the Council of Europe. The first consultation, at a technical level will, as far as the Council of Europe is concerned, be held at the Committee's meeting. At the next stage the matter has to be brought before the Council for Cultural Co-operation for further deliberation.

The Committee is requested to give a technical opinion on the draft EUDISED Programme 1976-78.

Item 6 - European Survey 1975: Sources of Educational Information

- Following consultations between the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe's Secretariat, the proposal to up-date the 1967 European Survey: Educational Documentation and Information Systems, was submitted to a meeting of experts of the Committee held in Paris on 24-25 September 1974. The experts agreed to the proposal and finalised the questionnaire (see document DECS/Doc (74) 15 paras 10 and 11).

  The questionnaire contained in document DECS/Doc (74) 17 rev. was submitted to the Heads of Delegations to the Council for Cultural Co-operation by Note Verbale of 25 November 1974. Replies were requested not later than 1 July 1975.

  The Secretariat would be grateful if the Committee would discuss this matter to ensure as far as possible the co-ordination of the replies.

  The Commission of the European Communities proposed to edit the contributions from its nine member states, whereas the Council of Europe's Secretariat would edit the remaining contributions. The Secretariat proposes that a Committee member be asked to write an introduction to the Survey which, it is hoped, could be published by the end of 1975.

Item 7 - Election of Committee Officers

- Mr. Viet, who succeeded Professor E. Egger, Geneva, as Chairman of the Committee in 1972, informed the Bureau that he wished to resign. The Bureau will propose that Mr. B. Gran, who has taken a very active part in all EUDISED activities from the very beginning, be elected Chairman at the forthcoming meeting.

  Mr. R. E. Coward, who has been appointed Director General of the British Library, informed the Bureau that his manifold duties made it impossible for him to continue to chair the Working Party on EUDISED Format and Standards, and proposed Mr. J. E. Linford, British Library Systems Development Branch, as his successor. Mr. Linford being well known to the Committee through his participation in the EUDISED Project and in particular through the studies prepared by him, the Committee is requested to endorse his nomination. The other Working Party, on the multilingual EUDISED thesaurus, remains under the chairmanship of Dr. K. Spangenberg, and both Working Parties may have to meet in the course of 1975-76 to deal with problems in their respective fields which requires a prolongation of their mandates.

  As for the re-election of the Bureau members, the Secretariat proposes that Mr. D. A. Gilbert be also elected to be a member of the Bureau provided that the Committee decides to carry out the above-mentioned simulation exercise in the field of non-book material.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg 4 February 1975

DECS/Doc. (75) 4
Or. Fr.

COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

Committee for Educational Documentation
and Information

EUDISED: 1975 Programme

Analysis of articles in periodicals specialising in the educational sciences

by

Mr Jean VIET, Paris

38.370
04.6

EUDISED 1975 Programme 28 January 1975

Analysis of articles in periodicals specialising in the educational sciences

In addition to the analysis of research projects, research completed and national pilot projects, it seemed desirable for the EUDISED programme to include the analysis of articles published in periodicals dealing with the educational sciences. It is worthwhile giving reasons for this before refuting the objections they raise and considering the way in which the operation can be conducted.

A. Reasons for this analysis

1. The information contained in articles in specialised periodicals is by and large information about research: frequently an article reports on the results of a completed research project, sums up research in progress, triggers off an argument about methods, the ideas used etc. And this cannot be neglected in a programme based on research development.

2. Such information is difficult to digest because of the number and diversity of its sources. For example, 39 journals were included for France in the World List of periodicals specialising in the educational sciences (1) because of their scientific nature. If we add up the French periodicals whose articles are analysed by national bibliographical bodies (CNRS, INRDP, CREFED etc) the total number is 130. In the Bulletin signalétique (Descriptive Bulletin) of the CNRS alone, 1,895 documents in French were quoted in 1974, and taking into account literature not produced in France and non-periodical publications such as books, that must represent about 1,000 articles. And the Descriptive Bulletin makes no mention of 10 periodicals of the 39 included in the World List! No administrator, no researcher and no teacher can deal with this enormous mass of documents if he is not provided with the essential instruments.

3. But the information contained in articles in periodicals is not at present the subject of concerted treatment. The institutions compiling the bibliographies do so in the light of the aims they have set themselves and without any real desire to ensure that their efforts converge at national level. Of the 130 French periodicals treated in France, at least 30 are analysed both by CNRS and INRDP; if we include other documentary bodies such as CREFED, CREDIF etc the overlapping becomes even more marked. Such overlapping naturally affects the overall cost of information services.

./.

(1) Published by Mouton, Paris, The Hague 1974 307 p

4. It also transpires that the contents of articles are analysed almost everywhere according to different methods. Work is based in particular on documentary languages which constitute very different scientific systems; since they are not co-ordinated, they present the user who wishes to pass from one to the other with a labyrinth in which the key-words represent serious traps.

5. Lastly, it is obvious that the treatment of articles is not exhaustive at national level in spite of the overlapping involved. Important periodicals are not taken into account because they do not completely come within the field of interest of the services making the analysis or because the latter have not established sufficiently close relations to ensure total coverage.

6. These reasons alone would justify the inclusion of the analysis of articles in periodicals in the EUDISED Programme for 1975 even if it were not obvious in other respects that it provides the best touchstone for the two instruments which have been created; the thesaurus and the communication format. Because of the multiplicity of the subjects they cover, articles in periodicals, even more than research projects, could serve to test documentary language in a truly comprehensive manner. To elaborate this language, considerable use was made of the indices prepared in order to analyse articles in periodicals and it would to say the least be strange if that method were to be abandoned now. The same is true in respect of the communication format and the standards whose relevance for strictly bibliographical usage must be checked.

7. That bibliographical usage is important if account is taken of the importance now ascribed to bibliographical activities in the treatment of information. It should normally lead to the progressive integration into the system of other sources of information such as contributions to congresses, reports etc in addition to articles in periodicals and books.

8. The material thus obtained will add to the basic data and supplement information obtained directly from research. The flow will then be considerable enough for it to be possible to consider, in each of the countries taking part in the network, the setting up of a system for disseminating information on interest profiles. Such a system, called for by many users, requires that information should be provided at regular intervals, and that can be done only on the basis of a relatively large collection of documents which only articles in periodicals can provide.

B. Objections

Other reasons exist in addition to those which have just been given, but doubtless it is preferable to answer briefly a number of objections.

1. The first is based on the fact that every country already has bibliographical services and no purpose can be served by adding a EUDISED service to them. This argument is not valid if it is remembered that EUDISED does not seek to replace what already exists but rather to provide a framework in which national services will be able to integrate themselves with a view to exchanging information on a European level. A simulation exercise based on articles in periodicals should show that this integration is possible, thanks to the instruments prepared for the co-operative treatment of educational information. In order to conduct this exercise efficiently, it will be necessary to secure the participation of existing documentary bodies.

2. A more fundamental objection arises when the value itself of the information conveyed by articles in periodicals is questioned. This calls for a discussion in depth which would not be appropriate within the framework of EUDISED. The European system is based on what exists and its justification is the exchange of information. But it does not have to produce that information; it takes it wherever it is to be found. And the fact is that it is obtained largely from the treatment of articles in periodicals.

3. Lastly, in order to oppose the operation, it is also possible to argue along the lines that it will involve considerable costs and constitute a burden for the national services in 1975. It is true that the simulation exercise will be a burden even if it deals with a small portion of the mass of documents. But it is surely a good investment, because the exercise should normally lead to a better division of labour in respect of documentary analysis at national level and thus to economies for the bodies concerned.

C. The conduct of the operation

The operation should normally be conducted according to the pattern adopted in 1974 for research projects, completed research and national pilot projects.

1. A contract will be concluded between the Council of Europe and a person responsible in five member states. This person will not act on his own behalf in that he will not himself analyse articles. Nor will he act solely on behalf of the institution employing him; but will endeavour to obtain the co-operation of other institutions pursuing similar aims in order to prepare the harmonisation of documentary activities at national level. The division of labour will be arranged according to the periodicals treated: one institution will analyse the articles in a given periodical, another will study those in a different periodical etc. The choice of periodicals, which should be as varied as possible, could perhaps be based on the recently published World List of periodicals specialising in the educational sciences.

The person responsible will collect the analyses whose number must be fixed in advance: probably 100 analyses per country would be an adequate sample.

2. Each analysis will be recorded on a model form distributed in advance. This form will also include the information necessary for cataloguing the articles in accordance with EUDISED standards. After being assembled at national level, the analyses will be transmitted to a central body in order to check the efficient application of the EUDISED instruments; they will then be prepared for machine recording.

3. As in 1974, that will be done at the British Library unless it is considered desirable to try out the CID facilities at Luxembourg. The ultimate result will be the publication of a bulletin of analyses produced together with its indices by computer. This bulletin will then serve as a reference for the national services which will be able to use this model or make any improvements of their own choosing.

Jean VIET

Maison des Sciences de l'Homme

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg 4 February 1975

DECS/Inf (75) 4
Or. Fr.

COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

Committee for Educational
Documentation and Information

PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING THE EUDISED SYSTEM

by

Mr Jean VIET, Paris

Background document submitted to the committee
at its meeting on 21 and 22 May 1975

38.375
04.6

The EUDISED project was defined by the Council of Europe in 1969 and has been managed since then in the framework fixed, within that institution, by the Council for Cultural Co-operation and its Committee for Educational Documentation and Information. Today it is passing from the theoretical to the practical stage, and this raises problems (establishment of the system, logistical support, management costs, etc) which need to be examined, after a rapid survey of what has been accomplished so far.

I. THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUDISED

Principal stages

Between 1969 and 1971 the Council of Europe specified the main characteristics of a system for the exchange of educational information between its member states, then it arranged for the preparation, in 1972 and 1973, of the two instruments required for its smooth functioning: a set of standards to be applied at the computer input stage; and a documentary language conceived for setting out the information to be transmitted. The manual on standards appeared in 1973. The EUDISED multilingual thesaurus for information-processing in the field of education was published at the beginning of 1974 in 3 versions: French, English and German; a Portuguese version has since been published in Brazil and two other versions, Spanish and Dutch, are in the process of publication.

In 1974 and 1975, the Council of Europe decided to apply these two instruments, so as fully to establish their relevance and encourage member states to use them for processing their information, from a European rather than a purely national angle.

They are being applied in five fields, chosen for the interest they hold for the different categories of users (administrators, researchers, teachers, etc); these are current educational research, recently completed research, national pilot projects, non-book material, and articles published in specialised periodicals. In each one of these fields a representative sample of their national output is being processed simultaneously by several member states; contracts for this work have been concluded between the Council of Europe and the institutions responsible. Inscribed on specially prepared analysis forms, the data are checked and then sent to London to be processed by the British Library computer. Bulletins relating to each of the five fields are produced to explain the operation, to disseminate initial information, and to provide a frame of reference for the work which should henceforth be carried out systematically in the various countries.

End of programme in 1975

As far as the Council of Europe is concerned, management of the programme could end there. The only item entered in the 1976 budget for EUDISED is the meetings of experts which seem necessary for the co-ordination of activities. The Council of Europe considers, in fact, that it will have fulfilled its mission by the end of 1975, when conditions will be such that EUDISED can function by itself, its operation thereafter being guaranteed by the advantages it represents for all the participants. Now that the benefits of regional co-operation have been demonstrated and that the instruments necessary to ensure it have been established, it is up to the states to take over.

This consideration rests on a sound conception of the relationships which must exist between an international organisation and its member states: the former cannot substitute for the latter indefinitely, nor can it manage alone an undertaking to which they are not resolved to devote the necessary effort. But it is also based on the initial assumption of a completely decentralised EUDISED network: it was taken for granted that once the system was functioning, thanks to the first impulse provided by the Council of Europe, the organisation model devised by common agreement, and to the instruments guaranteeing compatibility, each country would process its own documentary material and would thus have a sort of exchange currency enabling it to obtain contributions from its neighbours and to build up a data base, that was both national and European for its own needs.

Although this plan is still basically valid, experience in applying the EUDISED thesaurus and standards in 1974 has shown that it needs modifying to some extent. It would seem necessary to provide for a central unit at international level to carry out a number of functions inherent in the permanent nature of the system. It also seems indispensable, judging at least from French experience, to set up a similar central unit at national level, a sort of co-ordinating promoting body, serviced by a small permanent staff.

The functions, location and cost of these units for the maintenance of EUDISED, at international and national level, are examined below.

II. THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Functions of the central unit

The first concerns the checking of data at the input stage. The use of the EUDISED documentary language and standards in 1974 has shown that it is necessary for this checking to be centralised, at least during a certain trial period.

Going through the central unit, even though the data is being processed locally, would constitute a kind of training in the EUDISED system, which is essential for each of the national agencies. This training could be obtained in another manner: an expert could, for example, visit each country to organise courses and to ensure, on the spot, that data were checked at the input stage; it would nevertheless remain, along with the checking, a function of the central unit in so far as it is necessary for the maintenance of the system.

Another function concerns the management of the EUDISED thesaurus and standards, which cannot be considered as final; they must keep pace with the development of language and technology, and be constantly adapted in the light of experience. Since these are common instruments, this must necessarily be a task for the central unit.

A further task would be to provide a data input service for certain member states which have no automated educational documentation services as yet and therefore cannot produce tapes themselves for exchange with other countries. In short, the central unit would play the same role as the INIS Centre in Vienna does for some of the countries which practise the system inaugurated by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

It could conceivably also serve to provide access to data bases outside the member states, in so far as these touch on educational problems and cannot always be consulted through national systems. MEDLARS would be one example, but also the bases being developed by international organisations: OECD, ILO, UNESCO, etc. The central unit would serve as an intermediary between EUDISED users and the specialised networks which carry educational material.

In order to do this, it would have to convert the outside data into EUDISED data and would then function as a producer of conversion software. Nor would the software be used only for handling outside data. It is also indispensable within the EUDISED system if the network is to stay closely linked to the local and national systems, which are very varied, and if full benefit is to be derived from the massive investment already devoted by the institutions in member states to retrieval software.

Programme 1976-78

On the basis of the functions outlined above and of the operations already launched in 1974 and 1975, a triennial programme has been worked out for the central unit at

European level. It provides for the input of the following data, with everything this implies in the way of checking or requires in the way of maintaining the instruments used:

- data on research and development in education (research in progress, recently completed research, national pilot projects), at the rate of 2,000 inputs in 1976 and an average of 1,000 additional inputs each year;

- data on non-book material, at the rate of about 3,000 inputs in 1977 and an average of 1,500 inputs each year thereafter;

- bibliographical data, especially on articles published in specialised periodicals: approximately 6,000 inputs in 1978 (annual average of 1,500 inputs thereafter).

Cost

The Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Communities jointly commissioned an English expert, C W Townsend, to produce a financial analysis of the operations to be carried out centrally at European level, with the object of preparing estimates. The results of this analysis will be known in March 1975.

Location

Since the Council of Europe considers that its direct contribution to the development of EUDISED ends in 1975, the central unit cannot be located in Strasbourg, where the logistical support would be lacking in any case, as there is no automated documentary system at the Council.

Contacts have been made with the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels and Luxembourg, and it appears that appropriations for the operation of the central unit could be included in the EEC Commission budget from the financial year 1976. An arrangement would be worked out to allow the European states which were not members of the European Communities to participate in the proposed programme.

The fact that the expenditure would be covered by the EEC Commission budget does not necessarily imply that the Commission itself would exercise the functions of the central unit. The choice is between two alternatives: either these functions would be assumed by the Documentation and Information Centre of the European Communities, which already manages information in Luxembourg; or they would be given to a national agency acting under contract, and the unit would be located in Paris, London, Brussels or some other EEC city.

III. THE NATIONAL LEVEL

(The part which follows concerns proposals to be carried out within the French national framework by the creation of a National EUDISED Committee with representatives from all the institutions processing educational information and of and office composed of five people with access to a computer.)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 9 July 1974

DECS/Doc (74) 15
Or. Engl.

COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

26th session

(Strasbourg, 4-10 October 1974)

EUDISED PROJECT

European Documentation and Information System for Education

ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT SITUATION

(Introduction to document DECS/Doc (74) 12)

35.909
04.5

BACKGROUND

1. The preparatory stages of the EUDISED Project comprised the publication of the general feasibility study (three vols.) in 1969, of the technical feasibility study (two vols.) in 1971 and, finally, of the two main EUDISED instruments, the format and the thesaurus in 1973/1974. With these publications the preparatory stages have been completed.

EUDISED WORK PROGRAMME 1974

2. The project has now entered its operational phase, on an experimental basis and in one of the main fields of education - research and development. This was the main result of the meeting of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information on 15 and 16 May 1974 at Strasbourg.

3. For the meeting the committee's Bureau had prepared a report on the various possibilities of putting the EUDISED project into operation. (See document DECS/Doc (74) 8.) In its report the Bureau emphasised that the EUDISED instruments, the format and the thesaurus, could be applied to any field of education - to statistics as well as to legislation, to curriculum matters, to teaching aids and to research and development. Thus an interchange of information between all participating countries was in theory possible. But the following questions arose. Were the centres which collect and disseminate educational information at the national level, already prepared for computer based information exchange with foreign centres? And was educational experience as such transferable from one country to another, or, in other words, was educational information generated in one country relevant to a broader public in another country, apart from those who specialise in comparative education? Without these two elements - an advanced national infrastructure and developed international user needs - no European information exchange system would be viable. The Bureau therefore proposed to limit, for the time being, the experimental implementation of EUDISED to the field of educational research and development where the prerequisites for an information exchange system already exist in a number of member states.

4. The committee followed the Bureau's proposals and decided to carry out a number of experiments in the field of educational research and development to test the EUDISED instruments and, at the same time, to demonstrate the potentialities of their practical application. The following experiments will be carried out under contract with the Council of Europe in 1974:

- information on <u>on-going</u> educational research exemplified by some 150 projects to be selected by five countries and to be published in EUDISED R & D BULLETIN 01;

- information on completed educational research, exemplified by some 75 projects to be selected by five countries and to be published in EUDISED R & D BULLETIN 02;

- information on national pilot projects of educational reform, exemplified by some 30 projects, to be selected by three countries and published in EUDISED R & D BULLETIN 03.

5. Information on these projects will be systematised in accordance with a common worksheet and computer processing will be carried out by the British Library under contract with the Council of Europe.

6. Furthermore, the committee decided to carry out case studies, to be provided by four countries, on the national R & D information systems in education. The case studies will describe the present national systems, their achievements and deficiencies and outline the various trends of development. An analysis of these case studies will lead, it is hoped, to recommendations for the further development of the national infrastructures.

EUDISED WORK PROGRAMME IN 1975

7. The committee also gave guidelines to its Bureau for the preparation of the 1975 work programme. The five main items of this programme will be:

- Thesaurus management: the EUDISED thesaurus is at present stored in the ILO computer in Geneva; the experience gained with its application in 1974 will make it possible to develop methods of co-operation between national experts for keeping the thesaurus up to date;

- Format development: on the basis of the format which is being tested in 1974, bridging software has to be developed to make possible the exchange of tapes between national centres, in such a way that each centre can hear the tapes of the other centres.

- Study of the SDI services (Selective Dissemination of Information) which are at present being developed for education in a number of member states;

- Extension of EUDISED to the field of educational media: under the CCC's Educational Technological Project a study on common cataloguing of non-book material suitable for use in education has been carried out by an expert. On the basis of this study a few experiments on the application of EUDISED to such common cataloguing and to the exchange of bibliographical information in this field could be undertaken. Computer based catalogues of educational media exist already in some member states (eg HELPIS (Higher

Education Learning Programmes Information Systems) of the United Kingdom Council for Educational Technology);

- Cost-benefit analysis of EUDISED in comparison with traditional systems: the committee felt this analysis to be an indispensable factor in reaching decisions on the further implementation of EUDISED.

FROM 1976 ONWARDS

8. The experimental phase of the EUDISED project, financed by the CCC in 1974 and 1975, aims at testing its instruments and presenting the results which could be expected from it. Thus member governments should be able to decide from 1976 onwards whether EUDISED meets their needs, how far it could be incorporated into their national education policies and what provision should be made for co-operation by their national centres at the international level.

SECRETARIAT ASSESSMENT

9. Even if EUDISED never reached the phase of general implementation, the feasibility studies, the format and the thesaurus will have helped to improve the existing national documentation and information systems in education.

EUDISED can only be implemented successively field by field - eg educational research and development, educational media, statistics. The present financial constraints have made it doubtful whether in the next few years EUDISED can be fully implemented in one or other of these fields. In assessing the cost factor, it should not be overlooked, however, that experience with the application of computer techniques to national library systems has shown the new system to be cheaper than the continuous expansion of the old system. The same obviously applies to educational documentation and information.

Should EUDISED become fully implemented in a number of fields, it would create a common European market for national thought and experience in education.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 12 November 1974 DECS/DOC (74) 22

COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATIONAL
DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

Draft EUDISED Programme 1976 - 1978

37.311
04.6

Draft EUDISED Programme 1976 - 1978

1. At the meeting of the Bureau of the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information held at the office of the Commission of the European Communities (DG XIII) in Luxemburg on 6 and 7 November 1974, proposals for a three-year programme for the period 1976-1978 were formulated. The proposals are based on the need to co-ordinate information exchange activities at other than national level. They are the product of efforts on the part both of the Council of Europe and the European Communities to work jointly in the important field of educational documentation and information within the framework of the future European information network.

2. It emerges that in this field several functions would have to be fulfilled centrally, namely:

2.1 Control pertaining both to the utilisation of the EUDISED multilingual thesaurus and to respect of the EUDISED standards and format. It would bear on the processing of the data carried out by the different national agencies, using the common worksheet.

2.2 It is understood that data input would normally take place at national level and that magnetic tape copies would be collected and further processed centrally. This national material would be merged with that obtained in the field of education from various international organisations, such as UNESCO, ILO, OECD. The consolidated material would be redistributed to national agencies. Although the utilisation of the magnetic tapes would as a rule be at the national level, specific information requirements may be met centrally.

2.3 Management of the multilingual EUDISED thesaurus, updating of EUDISED standards and format, provision of user software packages for the benefit of national agencies.

3. These three functions could be fulfilled either by the Commission of the European Communities or by a national agency working under contract.

4. As already agreed by the Committee for Educational Documentation and Information, three types of information originating in the member States of the Council for Cultural Co-operation (CCC) would initially be processed in the EUDISED framework (other types of information, e.g. in the statistical field, could be added subsequently):

4.1 Information on educational research and development (on-going research, completed research and national pilot-projects), amounting to some 2,000 entries in 1976, with an average yearly increment of some 1,000 entries.

4.2 Non-book material: an input of some 3,000 items is forecast for 1977, with a subsequent yearly complement of some 1,500 items.

4.3 Bibliographical information resulting from cataloguing and/or abstracting of articles on education and other material not already provided for by the programme. This is estimated at some 6,000 entries in 1978, with an approximate yearly complement of 1,500 entries.

5. An estimate of costs entailed by the operations to be carried out centrally is planned, with the aim of determining the necessary budgetary appropriations. This assessment should be commissioned from an expert nominated jointly by the Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Communities, who will each contribute half of the expenditure.

6. A meeting of the Bureau of the Committee will be held at the Paris Office of the Council of Europe on 17 and 18 December 1974, with the participation of the Commission of the European Communities and a representative of the Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST), in order to give to the expert guidelines for his report. This report will, as far as possible, be submitted to the CIDST in time for its meeting in March 1975.

7. The appropriations covering the above-mentioned central operations would be inserted in the budget of the Commission of the European Communities from 1976 onwards. A mechanism would be set up to enable European States which are not members of the European Communities to participate in the proposed programme, for instance by making use of the special project procedure as provided for by the statutes of the CCC.

8. It is understood that the Council of Europe will continue to organise and finance the meetings of experts from the States participating in the EUDISED project with a view to co-ordinating activities.

9. This draft EUDISED programme for the period 1976-1978 will be submitted for further consideration to the competent bodies of the Council of Europe and the European Communities.

o

o o

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Strasbourg, 1975-04-28

Subject : Committee for Educational Documentation and Information, Annual meeting, Strasbourg, 21/22 May 1975

The Secretariat has been asked by several national delegations to prepare annotations to the draft agenda.

In reply to this request the Secretariat has pleasure in submitting the attached document.

The invitations to nominate delegates to the annual meeting have been addressed, as customary, to the Heads of Delegations to the Council for Cultural Co-operation on 18 March 1975.

Travel and subsistence expenses for one participant per country will be reimbursed by the Council of Europe.

Division for Educational Documentation and Research

Objet : Comité pour la Documentation et l'Information pédagogiques, Réunion annuelle, Strasbourg, les 21 et 22 mai 1975

Plusieurs délégations nationales ont demandé au Secrétariat de préparer des observations au projet d'ordre du jour.

En réponse à cette demande, le Secrétariat a le plaisir de vous soumettre le document ci-joint.

Les invitations à désigner les délégués à la réunion annuelle ont été adressées, comme d'habitude, aux chefs des délégations au Conseil de la Coopération Culturelle, le 18 mars 1975.

Les frais de voyage et de séjour d'un participant par pays seront remboursés par le Conseil de l'Europe.

Division de la Documentation et de la Recherche pédagogiques

E 2.599
04.6